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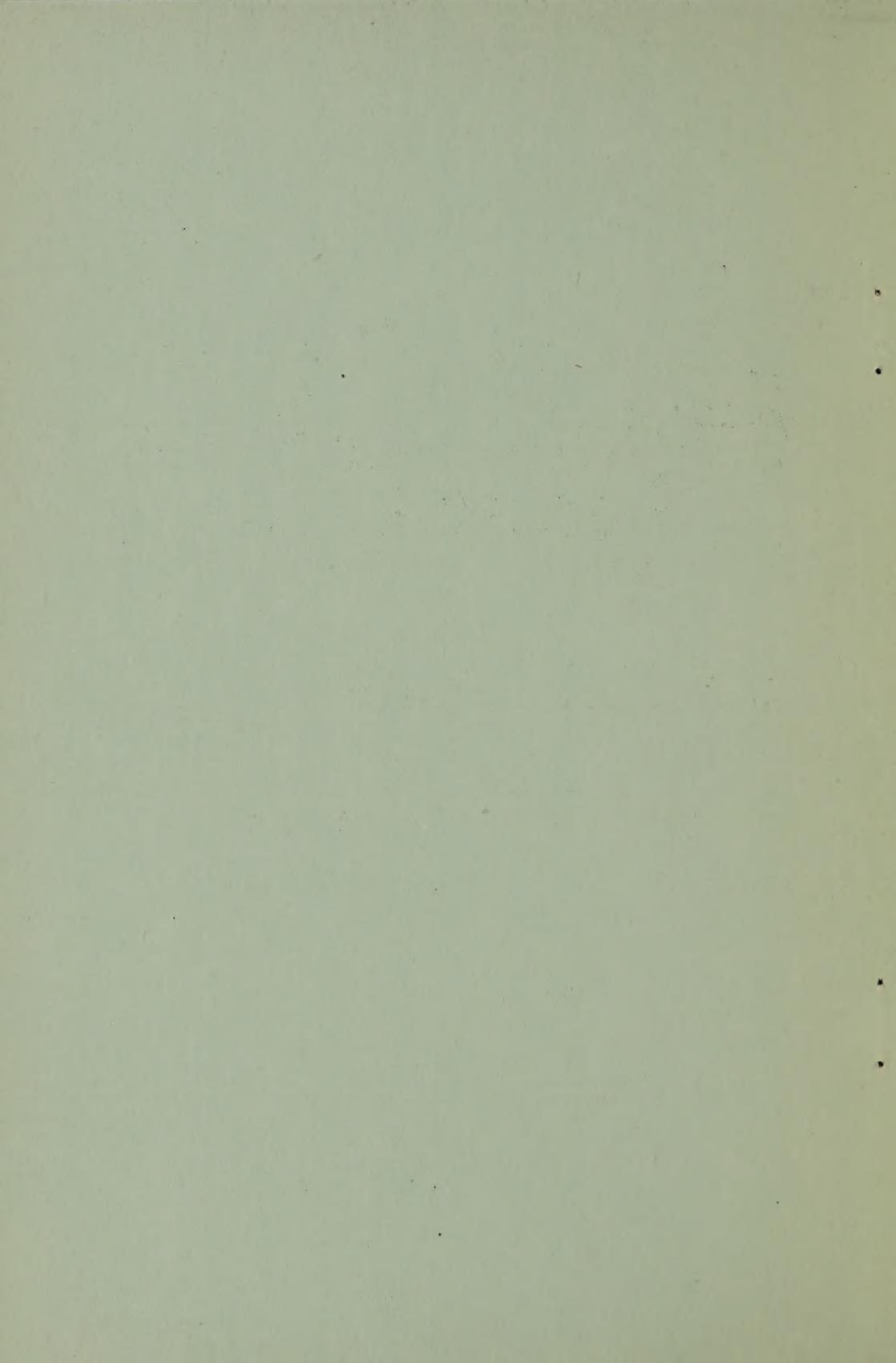
1948 Conference of Community and County Committeemen

PRODUCTION AND MARKETING
ADMINISTRATION

ST. PAUL

Feb. 26. Lowry Hotel Ballroom

Feb. 27 - Auditorium



Although our community and county ACP committeemen have met together many times in connection with the work they are doing at the community and county levels, this is the first Minnesota statewide meeting in ten years.

From time to time we may touch upon the accomplishments of the past decade. However, our purpose here is to survey the job that must be done in 1948.

As farmers, our first goal is to provide the people of our country with sufficient food and fiber to maintain the high standard of living that is one of the main characteristics of our American economy.

However, we have further responsibilities. Europe, her people and her nations are in a state of shock brought about by the war. We must see to it that their condition does not proceed from shock to collapse. If our aid is not forthcoming they may, in desperation, submit again to the forces and the methods of totalitarianism.

The continuing demand for a high level of farm production places a continuing drain on our soil. The only answer to additional soil depletion is more and better soil conservation. Later, as foreign demand eases, and lower production goals are possible one can carry on a more vigorous conservation program, with less demanding production goals.

As representatives of the Production and Marketing Administration, your responsibilities are great. We hope to plan here, with your help, an efficient and sound administration of the programs which are our individual and joint concern. They include the Agricultural Conservation Program, the Price Support and Commodity Loan Programs, establishing farm production goals, the distribution of conservation materials, and the development of a sound program of farm crop insurance.

It is my hope that this meeting will prove both helpful and inspirational to all of us.

Chas. W. Stickney
Chairman
Minnesota State PMA Committee

A MESSAGE FROM CLINTON P. ANDERSON

Minnesota farmers, like those in the rest of the Nation, are first line shock troops today in the battle for Peace.

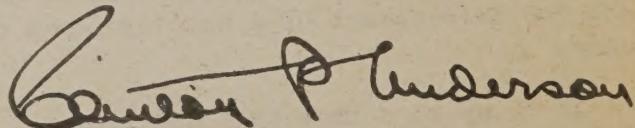
American food is urgently needed in many foreign countries to help prepare the basis for reconstruction and international cooperation.

The demand for food among our own people is also very great - - - well above the pre-war and even wartime levels. That is why our farmers are now gearing up to continue record production in 1948.

Food is so important in the world today that we must keep turning out all we can - - even at the risk of some over-cropping and the resultant strain on our soil resources.

In this situation, it is imperative that we carry out every possible agricultural conservation practice during the emergency period - - and that we prepare to intensify sound long-range conservation work.

The minute it is possible to get back to more normal production schedules, you, the democratically elected farmer committeemen, have a basic responsibility to assume leadership in these vital tasks.



Clinton P. Anderson
Secretary of Agriculture

A STATEMENT TO THE CONFERENCE
from Jesse B. Gilmer

The Production and Marketing Administration -- and especially its field committee system -- faces a real challenge as plans are developed for the 1948 production season.

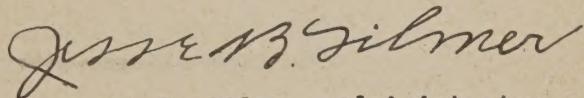
Some six million American farmers will undertake once more to grow and market the tremendous supplies of food and fiber which are needed so badly by the people of our own and other countries.

This calls for planning and teamwork-- all the way from the individual farm to the national offices in Washington. State, county and local committeemen will again have the major assignments in getting this job done.

This will be true for the production goals. It will, of course, be even more true with regard to the Agricultural Conservation Program.

Working together, we must see that the farmers of Minnesota, and of the entire country, continue to produce the maximum of the crops which are needed most.

At the same time, we must do everything we can to insure full use of the ACP Program in protecting our basic resources and laying the foundation for still more effective conservation in the future.



Jesse B. Gilmer, Administrator
Production and Marketing Administration

PROGRAM

Thursday, February 26, 1948

LOWRY HOTEL BALLROOM

MORNING

9:30 a.m. . . . Registration

10:00 . . . Opening Remarks - Charles W. Stickney,
Chairman, Minnesota State PMA Committee

10:30 . . . "Soil Conservation" - A.J. Loveland,
Director, Agricultural Conservation
Programs Branch

11:15 . . . "Minnesota 1948 ACP Program" -
John W. Brainard, Member, State PMA Com-
mittee

12:00 . . . Recess

AFTERNOON

1:30 p.m. . . . "1948 Crop Insurance Program" -
G.E. Geissler, Manager, Federal Crop In-
surance Corporation

2:00 . . . "European Situation Viewed by a Former
Nebraska Triple-A Committeeman" -
Abner Chestem

2:45 . . . Introduction of Visiting State Chairmen

3:00 . . . "Operation of Grain Branch" Leroy K. Smith,
Director, Grain Branch, PMA

3:45 . . . "Report on National PMA Conference" -
Charles W. Stickney

4:15 . . . Adjourn

EVENING

8:00 p.m. . . . Showing of Moving Pictures -
"The Round Trip"
"On the Other Side of the Fence"

PROGRAM

Friday, February 27, 1948

ST. PAUL AUDITORIUM THEATRE SECTION

MORNING

10:00 a.m. . . . Opening of Meeting - Chas. W. Stickney

Address of Welcome -

Mayor John J. McDonough, St. Paul
Mayor Hubert H. Humphrey, Minneapolis

"Getting Conservation on Minnesota Farms" - Paul E. Miller, Director, University of Minnesota Extension Service

11:15 . . . Address - Jesse B. Gilmer, Administrator, Production and Marketing Administration

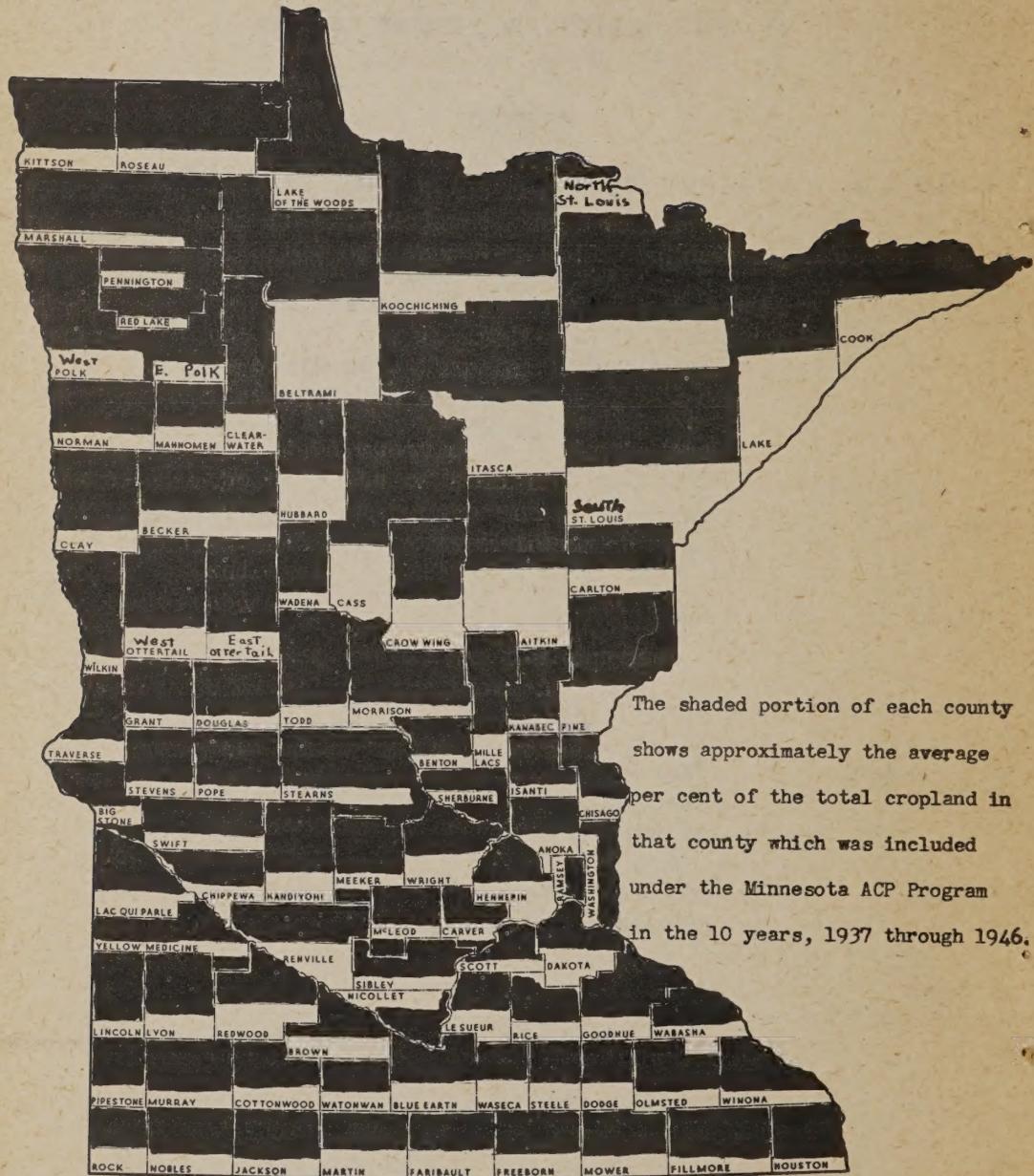
12:00 . . . Lunch

AFTERNOON

1:30 p.m. . . . "European Recovery Program" - Stanley Andrews, United States Department of State

2:30 . . . Address - Honorable Clinton P. Anderson, Secretary of Agriculture

3:30 . . . Adjourn



The shaded portion of each county shows approximately the average per cent of the total cropland in that county which was included under the Minnesota ACP Program in the 10 years, 1937 through 1946.

WHAT'S BEEN DONE

Your Agricultural Conservation Program is designed to solve a national problem through individual and cooperative action by and between individual farm operators.

From the very first, your program has been based on the principal of farmer control and farmer management. That basic structure has been maintained and strengthened.

Although the full story of the Minnesota ACP Program can't be told in picture or by statistics, the map facing this page does indicate how your program has become a vital force in our agricultural way of life.

Much has been done in the past decade. For instance, 85 out of every 100 real producing farm units are participating in the program.

Nearly four million acres of green manure crops have been turned under to restore and enrich the soil.

More than 322 thousand acres of depleted pasture lands have been re-seeded.

More than one million 250 thousand tons of lime and almost 200 thousand tons of superphosphate have been used on your legumes and grasses.

ACP incentive payments have encouraged strip cropping, contour farming and tree planting on more than 600 thousand acres of crop land.

Because your ACP organization was already a vital functioning unit, Minnesota farmers were able to work as a great agricultural team to produce the foods and fiber that helped win the war and now are being called upon to help win the peace.

It is now evident that your soil conservation program, established and developed in the '30s was largely responsible for the high agricultural production levels of the '40's.

WHAT'S STILL TO BE DONE

As long as we mine our soil for its annual yields of food and fiber, soil conservation will remain a number one agricultural task. What has been done in the last ten years is only the start of a job that will never end.

In 1946 about 150 thousand individual farm plans were worked out with ACP farmer cooperators. Out of that number nearly 130 thousand received ACP incentive payments for carrying out approved soil conserving practices.

These payments covered only a small part of the cost to the farmers. In 1946 less than four percent of the payments were for more than \$200. And nearly 60 percent amounted to less than \$60 each!

The payments are merely recognition of the principle that the benefits of soil conservation don't end with the returns to the farm owners and operators. The maintenance of soil fertility is a task in which the responsibility, the costs, and the benefits are shared between the individual farmer and the whole nation.

The pressure of heavy production took an added toll of the soil during the war. Expanded acreage and the intensified production further increased our need for an expanded conservation program and a better conservation program. And the need was already great.

Nearly 800 thousand acres of green manure crops were plowed under in 1946 -- more than 40 times the 1936 total. But this practice should be extended to include four to five million acres every year!

The use of 20 percent superphosphate on grasses and legumes has expanded more than a thousand-fold since 1936, and totalled more than 63 thousand tons in 1946. However, Minnesota's annual requirement is estimated at 190,500 tons every year!

The volume of lime applied to calcium deficient soils was nine times greater in 1946 than in 1936. But the 315 thousand tons we used in 1946 should be considered in the light of a yearly requirement of $1\frac{1}{2}$ million tons!

Your achievements are impressive, but the challenge of the future is tremendous.

SAVING THE SOIL OF MINNESOTA THIS YEAR
- -The 1948 Conservation Program - -

About 50 practices which build and conserve soil are included in the ACP national bulletin. From that group, 21 practices have been selected for the 1948 program in Minnesota. Those practices were selected by your State Production and Marketing Administration Committee, with the concurrence of the State Technical Committee made up of specialists from the Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station, the Soil Conservation Service, and the Agricultural Extension Service.

To encourage the use of these practices, a rate of payment has been designated for each. To earn a payment, cooperators select practices approved by his county ACP Committee, and carry them out according to prescribed specifications.

Rates of payment specified are the maximum rates allowed in Minnesota for carrying out the practices to which they apply. The state is allotted its share of the funds appropriated by Congress, and this amount is allocated among the counties. If cooperators carry out approved practices to an extent that the payments would exceed the available amount, a percentage adjustment will be made on payments. This assures the maximum amount of conservation for the available money.

County Committees select from the approved state list those practices most necessary in their area. More complete details of the practices approved for any individual county may be obtained from the county ACP Committee. The list of approved Minnesota practices may be obtained from the State Production and Marketing Administration Committee.

Provision is made for taking care of purely local conservation problems. The County Committee may originate and recommend one local practice not included in the national handbook if the State Production and Marketing Administration Committee, the State Technical Committee and the ACP branch approve the selection and payment rate. With the approval of the State Committee, the County Committee also may select from the national handbook one practice which is not included in the approved state practices but which is urgently needed in their area.

TWENTY-ONE STEPS TO SOIL HEALTH

1. Application of superphosphate or potash to pastures, new seedings of biennial or perennial legumes, perennial legumes and grasses when the fertilizer is left for the next year's production, and to orchard cover crops is encouraged by a payment varying according to the amount of available phosphate or potash in the fertilizer. A 100 pound application of 20 percent superphosphate earns a payment of 80 cents.
2. In 35 specified counties where the soil is lime deficient, application of limestone and carbide refuse lime is approved. Payment varies by counties, but approximates 50 percent of the farm delivered cost of the material. In some counties rates are established for marl, hydrated lime, sugar beet and paper-mill refuse lime, egg shells of 80 percent calcium carbonate equivalent, and blast furnace slag. In counties outside the lime-deficient area limestone application may be approved if soil tests show it is needed. In those counties the credit rate is \$1.80 per ton of agricultural ground limestone.
3. For each 100 pounds of gypsum, 17 percent sulphur content or its equivalent applied in Becker, Beltrami, Cass, Clearwater, Hubbard, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake of the Woods and Wadena counties, a payment of 60 cents will be made.
4. As an incentive to plow or disc under a good stand and growth of green manure crops, payment of \$1.50 an acre will be made. If the land is erosion-subject, it must be protected by a winter cover crop. Qualifying green manure crops are 1947 fall buckwheat, winter rye and sweet clover seedings or alsike or red clover seeded in 1947 or 1948.
5. Cultivating a heavy growth of stubble or straw into the surface soil on land to be summer fallowed and protection of the acreage from erosion is encouraged by a 50¢ per acre payment. The work must be approved as conducive to securing maximum moisture conservation and preventing weed growth. Straw or stubble on the land cannot have been burned and payment cannot be earned for practice of item number 4, above, on the same acreage.
6. Control of specified weeds, including field bindweed, Canada thistle, Austrian field cress, perennial pepper grass, leafy spurge, Russian knapweed, perennial sow thistle and horsenettle, or quack grass by use of chemicals (not oil) will earn payments when the County Committee has determined there is no likelihood of re-infestation from adjacent land.

Rates are 2¢ a pound for borax and 5¢ a pound for sodium chlorate. 2,4-D acid applied to Canada thistle, perennial sowthistle or field bindweed under specified conditions will be paid for at a rate of \$1.50 a pound.

7. Establishing contour strips of intertilled crops or close-sown crops alternating with strips of sod crops or sown or close drilled crops used as a nurse crop will earn a \$4 per acre payment. Specifications relating to laying out strips must be met.

8. To encourage the use of previously established contour lines, \$1.50 an acre is offered for contour farming intertilled crops provided the stubble is left standing or a good stand of a winter cover crop is obtained. Danger of erosion must be met by the use of appropriate approved measures.

9. Contour farming on a field planted to small grain, sorghum, millet or soybeans will be paid for at the rate of 50 cents an acre. Contour lines must meet specifications.

10. Strip cropping, or growth of strips of intertilled crops alternately with strips of close-drilled or sod crops, not on the contour but at right angles to the prevailing wind will be paid for at a rate of 50¢ an acre when all specifications are met.

11. Shaping and seeding or sodding a permanent sod waterway in a waterway channel on cropland, land broken to become cropland in 1948, or in a cultivated orchard, will be paid for at the rate of 75 cents per one thousand square feet. Specifications must be met.

12. Eight cents will be allowed for each cubic yard of material moved in constructing a terrace which meets specifications and has a proper outlet for carrying off water.

13. Seeding a mixture of 15 pounds per acre of bromegrass, or a mixture of bromegrass and alfalfa or sweet clover on steep slopes subject to erosion is encouraged by a payment of 15 cents per pound of seed. Acreage so seeded must be used only as pasture.

14. Establishment of a pasture on land no longer suited for cultivation will earn payments as follows: Seeded to Reed's Canary Grass, \$1.75 per acre; seeded to bromegrass and legumes (except sweet clover), \$3.00 per acre, seeded to timothy, sweet clover and alsike, \$2.00 per acre. A satisfactory seedbed must be prepared and necessary amounts of lime and fertilizer applied. Grazing must be controlled to permit good growth.

15. Renovating and re-seeding worn-out and depleted pastures will earn a payment based on the type of grass or legume seeded. The land must be disced or spring-toothed, lime and fertilizer must be added if necessary. Rate of payment for a combination of alfalfa, red clover, alsike, Reed's Canary Grass, bromegrass and meadow fescue is 25 cents a pound. A sweet clover and timothy mixture is paid for at a rate of 10 cents a pound.

16. The application of mulching materials, such as straw, hay, or shredded corn stalks to commercial vegetable land, orchards, vineyards, or land used to grow small fruits is encouraged by a four dollar a ton payment, air-dry weight.

17. Tree planting is promoted by a payment of one dollar for every hundred trees planted for forestry or gully control, or \$7.50 per acre for trees planted for windbreak development. The trees must be planted in accordance with proper culture methods, plantings must be protected, and species selected must be adapted to the particular soil, climate and moisture conditions.

18. Maintenance of a tree stand as a windbreak made up of at least 250 trees per acre planted between January 1943 and January 1948 by cultivating to control other vegetation, protection from fire and grazing, and replanting when necessary will be paid for at the rate of \$3 per acre.

19. Improving a stand of forest trees planted before January 1, 1943 can earn a payment of \$3 per acre if all specifications are met and the County Committee and a Forest Service representative give prior approval. This payment will not be allowed for more than three acres on one farm.

20. To stimulate land clearing on farms having less than 60 acres of cropland, there will be a payment of \$10 per acre if the estimated clearance cost is more than \$20 per acre. Approval will be given only where it is evident that the cleared land will not be subject to erosion and will not create a drainage problem. The land cannot be supporting a stand of merchantable or pulp timber and must be plowed before January 1, 1949.

21. Land cleared for pasture will rate a \$5 per acre payment if the clearance cost is estimated more than \$10 per acre. The County Committee must determine that the pasture, when established, will be capable of carrying at least one animal unit for each two acres during a pasture season of at least four months. Credit will be given only if required amounts of lime and fertilizer are applied, and other specifications met.

T A R G E T F O R '48

Production goals, first established during the war, are aimed at matching production with requirements. Their purpose is to serve as guides to secure a well-balanced production pattern with respect to anticipated domestic needs and world requirements.

It is impossible, of course, to accurately predict crop yields for any particular year since weather and the many other uncontrollable influences which affect production are unpredictable.

Therefore, the goals are based upon average yields, with acreage recommendations tailored to fit good land use practices.

Because the world need for food, fibers and vegetable oils continue at a high level, the 1948 goals are somewhat higher than would be normally recommended. If they are reached, additional soil restoration measures will be necessary to repair the soil damage that will inevitably result.

Minnesota's 1948 production goals have been approved by the Minnesota USDA Council. That organization is made up of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, the Farm Credit Administration, the Farmer's Home Administration, the State Agricultural Experiment Station, the Soil Conservation Administration, the Lake States Forest Experiment Station, the Rural Electrification Administration, and your own Production and Marketing Administration.

These goals have been set with due regard for the feed situation imposed by last year's short corn crop. The pig crop goal is actually based upon farmers announced intentions of sows kept to farrow this spring. The number is reduced from last year, not because of a recommended reduction, but because of the actual effect of the feed and price situation. The same can be said regarding the reduced goals, nationally, for other classes of livestock.

With average yields, the crop goals can be realized. With better than average yields, they could be exceeded.

TARGET FOR '48

FEED GRAINS

CORN	5,500,000 Acres
BARLEY	1,050,000 Acres
SORGHUMS	6,000 Acres

Last year's reduced feed supplies and continuing heavy requirements resulted in a two percent increase in planted corn acreage and a $1\frac{1}{2}$ percent increase in barley acreage.

FOOD GRAINS

WHEAT	1,300,000 Acres
RYE	160,000 Acres

The world needs more cereal foods. The recommended wheat acreage asks for a six percent increase compared with last year and a $4\frac{1}{2}$ percent larger rye acreage.

OILSEED CROPS

SOYBEANS	930,000 Acres
FLAXSEED	1,491,000 Acres

The 1948 goals for these two crops which produce vital drying oils, protein feeds and edible foods are unchanged. The guaranteed \$6.00 per bushel support price on flax is also continued.

VEGETABLES

POTATOES	151,100 Acres
DRY EDIBLE BEANS	3,000 Acres

Although the suggested 1948 potato acreage is 10 percent larger than the small 1947 acreage, it is still 37 percent less than the 1937-1941 planted acreage. Additional 1000 planted acres of dry edible beans is requested since this crop is an important export protein.

LEGUMES AND GRASSES

ALFALFA SEED	110,000 Acres
RED CLOVER SEED	145,000 Acres
SWEET CLOVER SEED	75,000 Acres
ALSIKE SEED	60,000 Acres
TIMOTHY SEED	35,000 Acres

Goals for these crops are generally unchanged. They make up an important part of your soil conserving crop rotation program.

TARGET FOR '48LIVESTOCK

SOWS FOR FARROWING (Spring)	638,000
CATTLE FOR BEEF	No State goal
SHEEP AND LAMBS	No State goal

The goal of 638,000 sows to farrow this spring is eight percent smaller than the estimated number last year, while the national cattle-for-beef goal is down 11 percent and the sheep and lamb goal is 3 percent smaller. These reductions are indicated by known intentions on the part of producers. They are close to probable production as limited by the feed and feed price situation.

DAIRY COWS AND MILK

MILK COWS	1,538,000
MILK PRODUCTION PER COW	5,450 lbs
TOTAL STATE MILK PRODUCTION	8,538,000,000 lbs

The number of milk cows is the average number maintained on farms, and is unchanged from the 1947 actual average. Production per cow and total production are also unchanged from the actual 1947 production figures.

POULTRY

CHICKENS RAISED	38,626,620
TURKEYS RAISED	2,935,680

Again, the feed supply and price situation is expected to result in smaller production. In the case of chickens, the goal is $7\frac{1}{2}$ percent below the 1947 figure, and the turkey goal is down $9\frac{1}{2}$ percent.

OTHER

BEE COLONIES	311,000
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Goals for bee colonies are established for the first time. Bees perform an important agricultural role in the fertilization of some hay crops, especially legumes, and fruits. The use of chemicals for weed and insect eradication has posed a threat to bee colonies in some areas.

THE PRICE SUPPORT PROGRAM AND THE MINNESOTA FARMER

Misunderstanding of our farm price support program is widespread. These programs have long been a vital part of the general farm program which you help maintain in your county and community. As county and community committeemen, you have a responsibility to counter mis-information with correct information.

The price support program does not guarantee farmers a profit. The program does guarantee that certain crops will be supported by the Department of Agriculture if market prices drop below 90 percent of parity. Ninety percent of parity does not represent a profit on the basis of present parity formulas in most instances.

The proposition that the price support program is responsible for high food costs does not hold water unless it can be advanced that farmers have an obligation to sell at a loss in order to hold down prices.

Most farm crops and products produced in Minnesota are eligible for price support at the 90 percent of parity level. It has not been necessary in recent years for the Department of Agriculture to support prices on many products. The reason is that most Minnesota farm products are selling on the open market at much more than the support price.

Price supports were instituted by Congress in the early period of the Triple-A and Commodity Loan Programs when it was recognized that a healthy farm economy cannot be maintained when farmers are required to sell their products at levels far below production costs.

At the outbreak of the war the program was expanded to cover additional commodities. The support levels were advanced to 90 percent of parity except in the case of cotton which is supported at $92\frac{1}{2}$ percent of parity. They were, in effect, a program of incentive payments similar to those afforded many segments of industry.

The present program will expire December 31, 1948. Its continuance two years after the end of hostilities was provided to ease the change from a war to a peacetime economy. This provision was similar to the contract termination payments afforded industrial producers of war materials.

Legislation to replace the present program is being prepared. Revisions in the parity formulas are also in prospect. But it is probable that price supports for major farm products will continue after 1948.

